CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

VOL. XVIII
No. 13

MAR. 25, 1996

PRIMARY PREVIEW

Editor's note: In this final issue before the March 26th primary, we'll cover some general *campaign trends*; update the GOP Presidential primary in CA; briefly cover the key ballot measures and the hot U.S. House & Legislative primaries; and give a final report on two of the more interesting county primaries. We'll make a few predictions, because that's what pundits are supposed to do -- and hopefully we'll have most of it right. Here's our analysis, starting with ***Campaign Trends***...

♦ ***Voter Turnout*** - Some studies have shown that when the primary date is changed, there's a big drop in voter turnout (15-25%). Our sources predict a voter turnout of between 37 - 43%. In some areas with hot local races, it may be higher --- but not much...

♦ ***Low Turnout Blues*** - Why the low turnout? Most voters get their news from TV and again local TV news is the key villain, devoting minimal time to the Mar. 26 election. Local news directors, particularly in L.A., are more interested in covering the Oscar ceremonies (Mar. 25th) than they are about covering the election. Newspapers, all-news radio, talk-radio and cable TV do a better job, especially Century Cable, which again is bicycling its series of *Election Specials* around Calif...

♦ ***Where's the Beef??*** - Except for those candidates who are self-funded (a growing trend), money has been very tough to raise for most races. One source told CALPEEK that campaign budgets are half of what they were in 1994. And because money is so very tight, there isn't much in the way of political TV ads in this primary cycle (except for 200/201/202)...

♦ ***The Grim, the Bad & the Ugly*** - Our sources predict that 1996 will witness some of the nastiest political attacks & ambushes ever seen in Calif. politics. The ***hits*** are already flying in this primary and will get much worse before the Nov. 5th election...

Presidential Politics

...GOP Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole has the Republican Party presidential nomination all locked up and thus has cut back his scheduled appearances here in Calif. Not too smart because this will start the rumors once more that Dole's staff plans to kiss Calif. good bye very early on --- thus causing huge problems for down-ballot GOP candidates & issues. The latest L.A. Times survey shows Dole winning 52% of CA's GOP vote, with Pat Buchanan at 18%, others at 25% and don't know at 5%. But Buchanan got 34% in both the Michigan and Wisconsin primaries. This same survey shows Pres. Bill Clinton winning a one-on-one match with Dole: 58% to 37%. In a 3-way race with Ross Perot thrown into the mix, Clinton gets 52%, Dole 30% and Perot 15%. Nothing seems to really help Dole in Calif., not even with Colin Powell as VP -- Clinton & VP Al Gore still win: 52% to 42%...

The Hot Ballot Measures

☒ ***Prop. 198*** - The Open Primary initiative is the *Rodney Dangerfield of initiatives* --- it gets no respect, but is perhaps the ***most important initiative*** placed before voters since cross filing was removed in 1958. If approved, and all polling data points in that direction, CA's two major political parties will be politically castrated. After the election, sources believe the CDP/CRP will attempt to block 198 with a legal challenge. But whether this works remains to be seen. New data from San Diego-based Competitive Edge Research's CA Pre-Primary Poll shows: YES 60.7%, NO 24.1% and undecided at 15.2%. The CER survey was taken Mar. 17-18 among 611 likely voters statewide...

☒ ***Tort Reform*** - Props. 200, 201 & 202 are sponsored by The Alliance to Revitalize Calif. and are aimed

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310) 659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. $90.00/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHT BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SEC. OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

right at the heart of the Consumer Attorneys of Calif. (aka *the trial lawyers*). Our sources think Prop. 200 (no fault auto insurance) will be defeated. And that's what the CER survey shows: 31.8% YES vs. 50.2% NO. However, there is a feeling that Prop. 202 (attorney contingency fees) will pass. The CER poll shows it leading by a margin of 45.2% YES vs. 33.4% NO, with 21.4% don't know. As for Prop. 201 (shareholder lawsuits), it's still a *toss up*. The CER survey shows 38.5% YES vs. 41.1% NO. The last Field Poll also showed it dead even. FYI: the new YES on 200/201/202 tv ads use actor Charlton Heston as the narrator. In its news release (called *Shark Alert*), the YES side says, "*We've got the voice of God.*" The NO side continues to use consumer advocate Ralph Nader's name. P.S. DLC President Al From has endorsed YES on 200, 201 & 201. This would seem to put From at odds with the Democratic Leadership Council's favorite son: Pres. Bill Clinton...

☒ ***Prop. 199*** - This is the Mobilehome Rent Control initiative. No polling data available. In the battle for newspaper editorial support, the NO side has won *most* of the major endorsements, *but not all*. The Copley Newspapers and L.A. Daily News in recent days have gone YES on 199, while the L.A. Times went NO. Both sides have about the same number slate cards. However, the NO side has 400,000 mobilehome residents who will turn out in force to vote NO. Is this enough? Best guess: 199 is defeated, but just barely...

☒ ***Other Statewide Ballot Measures*** - Here's the latest polling data on Props. 203 (educational facility bonds) and 197 (Mt. Lions). The L.A. Times survey on 203 shows it winning by a margin of 54% YES vs. 35% NO, with 11% undecided. On Prop. 197, the CER survey shows almost an even split: 38% YES vs. 41.6% NO, with 21% undecided...

U.S. House & Legislative Primaries

☒ **50th C.D.** - U.S. Rep. Bob Filner(D-San Diego) vs. San Diego Councilman Juan Vargas(D) continues to be the hottest primary in Calif. involving a serious challenge to an incumbent House member. This bitter race even made national news (*Inside Report* by columnist Robert Novak in a story headlined: *The Loophole Strikes Back*). Filner & Vargas are both are on TV; there's a KSDO Radio debate on Mar. 25th; and HUD Sec. Henry Cisneros was in S.D. last week campaigning for Filner. S.D. City Atty. candidate Casey Gwinn(R) has mailed a fundraising letter to GOPers urging support for Vargas, saying Vargas is our kind of guy - a pro-lifer with family values. Filner is pro-choice. A toss up, but a Vargas upset is very possible...

☒ **37th C.D.** - In the battle to replace Walter Tucker (D-Compton), who resigned after his conviction for political corruption, insiders have *no clues* as to what will happen. The two favorites are Demo Assemblymembers Juanita McDonald & Willard Murray, with Compton Mayor Omar Bradley in a 2nd tier position. While not discounting McDonald, sources see Murray as having these advantages: 1) endorsements from S.F. Mayor Willie Brown & U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters; 2) solid backing from the NRA (this plays well with likely GOP voters who can cross-over in the ***special election*** portion of this primary); 3) powerful slates; 4) Murray's vote for a bill against recognizing same sex marriages plays well with church-going voters in the 37th...

☒ **36th C.D.** - In this GOP primary blood bath, insiders are beginning to wonder whether Dr. Irwin Savodnik started spending his big warchest soon enough to overcome the *name ID advantage* of Susan Brooks, the GOP's rather aggressive '94 candidate. At this point our sources are split: some give a very slight edge to Brooks even though her campaign warchest is running on fumes, while other say it's a toss up...

☒ **1st C.D.** - In the Demo primary to see who gets a crack at U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs(R), our sources say it's a battle between Ms. Michela Alioto and St. Helena attorney Monica Marvin. Former S.F. Co. Sup. Carol Ruth Silver is in the 2nd tier. Marvin & Alioto have been on TV for 6 weeks. Marvin has won most of the key endorsements and Alioto has two problems: 1) she moved into the district to run (*carpetbagger*); and 2) she didn't vote in the last 4 elections. There has been some sniping about Marvin's acceptance of Emily List money from outside the 1st C.D. That's sour grapes...

☒ **24th C.D.** - BoE member Brad Sherman(D)has his mail program rolling and the big question for Sherman's main rival, attorney Jeff Lipow, is whether he has the money to finish strong? Our sources think Lipow needs another $100,000 to beat Sherman. Advantage: Sherman...

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

☒ **11th S.D.** - In this consolidated special/regular primary, most sources still give an edge to Palo Alto Assemblyman Byron Sher(D) in his battle with Patrick Shannon(R), who is Gov. Wilson's Bay area policy director. As of 3/18, tracking polls had Sher ahead and Demos seem more confident of their field operation and upcoming GOTV effort. But it could be a very close contest and an upset by Shannon is certainly possible. Keep your eyes on Sher's vote in his own 21st A.D. on election night...

☒ **21st S.D.** - A month ago most would have said this primary was between Assemblywoman Paula Boland(R) and Pasadena businessman Robert Oltman(R). But with Sen. Newt Russell's and U.S. Rep. Carlos Moorhead's endorsement of Wilbert Smith, this primary has turned into a 3-way toss up. Oltman has the most resources and is pounding away at Boland. But this could end up helping Smith...

☒ **27th S.D.** - GOP Assemblyman Phil Hawkins is considered the frontrunner in this primary, but Long Beach businessman Frank Colonna is hitting Hawkins with some solid mail. Former Demo Assemblywoman Betty Karnette should win her primary. Our best guess: Hawkins vs. Karnette on Nov. 5th...

☒ **25th S.D.** - This is the primary that everyone's talking about - especially up in Sacto. Things were fairly stable in this Demo primary until GOP Senate Leader Rob Hurtt gave $40,000 to Assemblyman Curtis Tucker(D) in his battle with incumbent State Sen. Teresa Hughs(D). Now it's WWIII. Some think that Tucker's acceptance of Hurtt's money was a big mistake because it has united groups (now for Hughes) who wanted to keep their distance from this battle. These groups view Hurtt as the *common enemy*. Our sources say Demo Senate Leader Bill Lockyer has even asked S.F. Mayor Willie Brown to pull his endorsement of Tucker. Demo sources say that while Hughes has a good mail program, there was some concern about her GOTV/ground operation. That supposedly has been beefed up. Based upon what's happened, our sources give an edge to Hughes. FYI: Hurtt's contribution to Tucker has even angered some of his GOP colleagues...

☒ **13th S.D.** - Although some sources think Assemblyman John Vasconcellos(D-San Jose) has a good shot at winning this open seat, Vasco's Demo challenger is giving the veteran lawmaker a real run. PA executive Tom Hayes has billboards up hitting Vasco on choice (Vasco is not a hardliner on abortion, but is considered pro-life) and now Hayes has gone after Vasco on his attendance record --- he missed lots of floor and committee votes, according to Hayes. But some think Vasco has this ***teflon quality*** - nothing negative seems to stick. Both are on TV and in the mail. Our sources give an edge to Vasco, but he's running scared because Hayes is an excellent candidate...

☒ **30th A.D.** - Hardline conservatives figure it's payback time for former Assembly Speaker Brian Setencich of Fresno. In other words, welcome to ***Ambush City***. There are no independents or Demos in this primary - it's only Setencich vs. unknown Robert M. Prenter Jr. of Hanford, who is fairly new to the 30th A.D. What does Prenter have going for him? Our sources say that the CA Independent Business PAC has or will spend about $200,000 in TV/mail to defeat Setencich. CIB-PAC wouldn't have done this without first doing a poll. We'll see whether or not Setencich is as popular as they say. FYI: sources say Fresno State Sen. Ken Maddy(R) has come to Setencich's aid...

☒ **74th A.D.** - GOP freshman Howard Kaloogian of Carlsbad is under siege from Dolores "Dee" Clayton of Vista --- with massive help from CSEA and other public employee groups. GOP operatives smell Demos behind this ambush, because the Demos screwed up by not recruiting a candidate for this race. Word is that Mr. Clayton will file as an independent for the Nov. 5th election - if wife Dee doesn't win in the primary. Very interesting indeed...

☒ **67th A.D.** - Two months ago insiders had written the primary off as a slam dunk for new GOP Assemblyman Scott Baugh. But as CALPEEK readers know, all hell has broken loose in the 67th A.D., with 3 GOP campaign/staff workers pleading guilty to charges of voter fraud --- all arising out of last year's Doris Allen recall and Baugh's election in her place. And now the L.A. Times has endorsed Cypress Councilwoman Cecilia L. Age in an editorial titled *The 67th Needs a Fresh Start*. The subhead reads: *Baugh's Tainted Victory Argues for a New Leader: Cecilia Age*. Can Age do it? Money has been her big problem, but sources say it's beginning to come in, allowing her to hit the mail boxes. Bottomline: an uphill battle for

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Age, but lightning has been known to hit in situations like these where the incumbent is under siege...

LOCAL CONTESTS

☒ *L.A. Co. DA's Race* - Has incumbent DA Gil Garcetti been saved by the recent 1st degree murder convictions in the Menendez II trial? Insiders are still trying to figure this one out. In order to avoid a Nov. 5th runoff, Garcetti needed to the knock down the perception that his office couldn't win ***The Big Ones***, the high profile cases. But sources think there's still an ABG - *Anyone But Garcetti* attitude among many voters. And then there's the L.A. Times' strong endorsement of Dep. DA John Lynch, head of the DA's Norwalk office. That caught many insiders off guard, who probably thought the LAT would go with Garcetti. Prediction: despite the Menendez II verdict, Garcetti faces a runoff --- probably with Dep. DA Malcolm Jordan, who has been running a credible campaign with a good-sized warchest of $400,000. Lynch started his campaign way too late. If there is a runoff and Lynch is in it, he can thank the LAT...

☒ ***Measure "S" - Orange Co.*** - This is the controversial measure that would reverse Measure A from 1994. "A" would permit El Toro Marine Corps Air Station to be converted into a major international airport. The latest poll from the O.C. Register shows that among likely voters, 50% oppose "S", while 35% are in favor, with 15% undecided. This poll was conducted by Richard Hertz Consulting, 502 O.C. voters, Mar. 8-14. The margin of error is 4.7%. Stay tuned...

LEGISLATIVE ACTION FORUM SET FOR APRIL 9th.
The Employers Group, along with the CA Retailers Assn., the Econ. Develop. Corp. of L.A. Co. and the Nat'l Fed. of Indep. Business will co-sponsor a legislative action forum featuring CA Gov. Pete Wilson, 11:15 a.m. registration, 11:45 p.m. lunch, 12:30 p.m. on April 9th, InterContinental Hotel, L.A. For info & RSVPs ☎(213)765-3944...

BROWN INSTITUTE HOSTS 15th ANNUAL DINNER.
The Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs will host its 15th annual awards dinner on April 17th. 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. dinner, Biltmore Hotel, L.A. Former Congressman Norman Mineta(D-San Jose) will be honored with the Pat Brown Legacy Award. For info & RSVPs ☎ (818)859-0552...

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***Berman for L.A. Mayor??*** - At the very successful recent 1st gathering of *The Public Policy Series* - a new L.A. speaking platform, U.S. Rep. Howard Berman(D-Mission Hills) told 80-100 guests (including Bill Wardlaw, a key Mayor Richard Riordan operative) that he was indeed looking at a possible run for mayor in 1997. Right now he's talking with folks to see if it's doable. FYI: an interesting group attended this breakfast, leading one insider to remark that, "We could be seeing the rebirth of the old (Tom) Bradley coalition," Westside libs, Jews & Blacks. The PPS was put together by campaign consultant Leslie Song Winner and PA exec Joe Scott...

■ ***Truth In Phone Banking*** - GOP Assemblyman Jim Brulte(R-Rancho Cucamonga) has a pretty good idea --- require those making political phone calls (for or against a candidate or ballot measure) to ID the political committee or group paying for the calls. His bill is AB 3343 and it has been endorsed by SOS Bill Jones(R). It hasn't been assigned to a policy committee as yet, but it will probably go to the Elections Cmt...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Benjamin Stansbury Jr., 61, the former mayor of Beverly Hills, died recently after a battle with cancer. He served on the council from 1980-88. R.I.P...

● APCO Associates, Inc., the internat'l PA arm of the GCI Group, has opened its first office in Calif., in the Capital --- 980 Ninth St., Ste. 1770, Sacto 95814. ☎ (916)554-3400. New Sr. vp is Jose Hermocillo, ex parnter of David Townsend. VP/managing director will be Nancy H. Martis. Also on staff are Jorgi Boom and Bill Romanelli...

● Don Novey, president of the CA Correctional Peace Offices Assn.(CCPOA), has been reelected as president of the CA Coalition of Law Enforcement Assns.(CCLEA)...

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED